

2022/2023 Annual Community Consultation Report Authorisation Lease 19 (AL 19)

1.0 Annual Community Consultation Report Details

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Reporting Period:	9 September 2022 – 8 September 2023
Project and Location:	West Muswellbrook Project, Muswellbrook, NSW
Project Operator:	Muswellbrook Coal Company Limited
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Executive Summary

This is an “Annual community consultation report” in accordance with the *Exploration Code of Practice: community consultation* (March 2016) and adheres to section 4.1 of the *Guideline for community consultation requirements for exploration* (1 March 2016). Consultation was undertaken during the 2022 – 2023 reporting period and conducted in accordance with Government and health authority advice.

No exploration was carried out during this reporting period (9 September 2022 – 8 September 2023).

The consultation activities that were undertaken by MCC during this reporting period included:

- responding to correspondence;
- Updates to the West Muswellbrook Project webpage; and
- management of the dedicated project email address and phone number.

No issues have been raised with MCC in relation to AL 19 exploration during the reporting period.

The overall outcome of consultation conducted during this reporting period was a greater understanding of the project, and the mining and planning process. This contributed to fostering a positive and transparent relationship between MCC and West Muswellbrook Project stakeholders.

1.0 Introduction

The West Muswellbrook Project Assessment Lease 19 (AL19) is situated in the major coal mining region of the Hunter Valley of NSW. The area is located approximately 12 km north-west of Muswellbrook, near the town of Aberdeen in the Upper Hunter Valley of New South Wales.

The topography of the project area is characterised by undulating lands to the east and south and steep ridgelines in the west. The ephemeral Sandy Creek (North) flows east to west across the centre of the area.

The project is accessed via Kayuga Road and then by Castlerock, Dorset, Halls and Rossgole Roads.

Significant mining operations lie to the east and south, including the Dartbrook underground mine, Mount Pleasant mine, Bengalla mine, Mangoola mine and Mount Arthur North mine.

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1.1 Approach to community consultation and reason for reduced consultation

Idemitsu Australia (IA) and MCC have developed an approach to community consultation for the West Muswellbrook Project that meets and exceeds the Code of Practice and is informed by the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) framework (Appendix B). The IAP2 framework is recognised good practice in community consultation and is described in the Community Consultation Strategy (Appendix A). The approach supports IA's ongoing social license to operate by adopting a shared value approach to ensure benefits are experienced by IA and the community that address local community issues.

MCC is committed to the safety and wellbeing of their people and working with local communities to create sustainable outcomes. They have maintained an ongoing stakeholder engagement program with directly affected landholders, near neighbours, and the broader community over the life of exploration activities for both the AL and the preceding Exploration Licence (EL).

No on-ground exploration activities have occurred during this reporting period (9 September 2022 – 8 September 2023) and limited activities are proposed in the next reporting period. Consequently, limited community consultation has been undertaken.

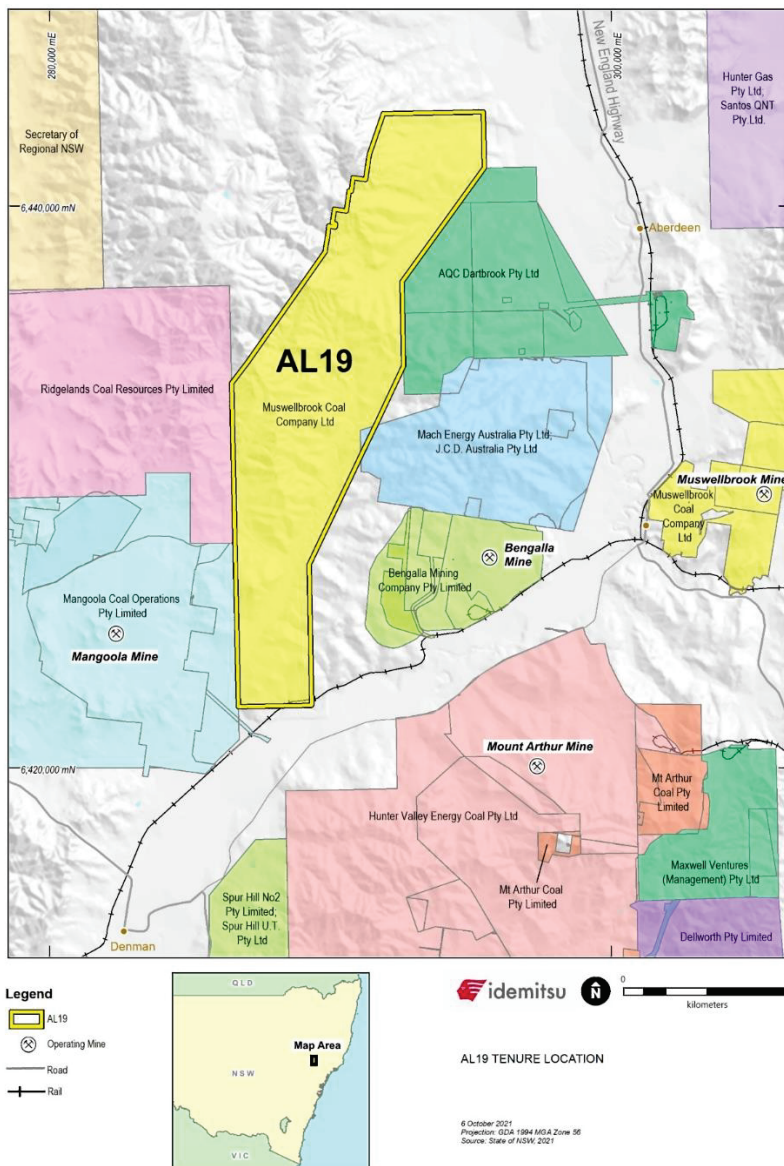


Figure 1-1: AL 19 Location and Surrounding Tenure

2.0 Community consultation undertaken in reporting period

2.1 Details of consultation

The consultation activities that were undertaken by MCC during the reporting period are outlined in Table 2-1.

Table 2-1: Consultation Activities

Consultation activity	Targeted stakeholders and Meeting dates
Respond to correspondence/submissions via telephone, email, letter, and in person, as appropriate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All community stakeholders<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Ongoing correspondence
FAQs document	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All community stakeholders<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ FAQs document (Appendix C) uploaded to website prior to this reporting period
Project updates on the IA website.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All community stakeholders<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Updates ongoing
Manage the dedicated West Muswellbrook email address and project phone number.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All community stakeholders<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Management ongoing

Respond to correspondence/submissions

In accordance with the Code of Practice, MCC responded to correspondence/submissions in a timely manner as correspondence/submissions were received.

Project email address and 1800 number

MCC managed the West Muswellbrook project email address and phone number during the reporting period. The email address and phone number were monitored during normal business hours Monday to Friday, with emails and phone calls responded to in a timely manner as they were received.

Project updates on the Idemitsu Australia website

The West Muswellbrook Project webpage was monitored and updated as appropriate.

2.2 Objectives of community consultation

Community consultation for the 2022/2023 exploration program was undertaken in accordance with the Code of Practice to ensure:

- open and honest dialogue that facilitates a sound working relationship between MCC, landholders, and community with all participants cooperating in good faith;
- appropriate and adequate notification of the community and provision of information regarding exploration activities and future plans;
- mitigation and management of potential risks associated with conflict with community and other stakeholders;
- regular monitoring and review of the community consultation process and delivery;
- the local community and stakeholders can provide feedback and identify potential issues;
- provision of feedback back to participants on the results of their contribution; and
- identification of community investment opportunities that provide shared value for the community and MCC.

2.3 Issues and topics raised in discussion and responses

Stakeholders were encouraged to raise questions and highlight issues or concerns.

No issues were raised in relation to the exploration activity.

3.0 Government agency consultation undertaken in reporting period

3.1 Details of government consultation

Muswellbrook Shire Council

Questions and/or concerns were not raised during this reporting period.

Upper Hunter Shire Council

Questions and/or concerns were not raised during this reporting period.

DPIE

Questions and/or concerns were not raised during this reporting period.

4.0 How feedback was collected

Feedback was collected from stakeholder dialogue with MCC. Feedback was documented using Consultation Manager, a stakeholder and consultation database.

5.0 Summary and nature of complaints received

No issues or complaints have been raised with MCC in relation to exploration activities in AL 19 during the reporting period.

6.0 Activity alterations in response to issues raised

No alteration to the activity was made as no issues or complaints were raised with MCC in relation to exploration activities in AL 19 in the reporting period.

Appendix A Community Consultation Strategy

Appendix B IAP2 Framework

Appendix C FAQs